

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 168

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to congratulate W.A. "Buddy" Pate, Jr. upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is W.A. "Buddy" Pate, Jr., who on March 19, 2005, will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high schools; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated educator, Mr. Pate has devoted twenty-eight years to the development and instruction of young students, which began at Eagleville School where he taught from 1967 to 1976; and

WHEREAS, during his years at Eagleville, W.A. "Buddy" Pate Jr. served as the Girls Basketball Coach with a 187-54 win-loss record and as the Boys Basketball Coach with a win-loss record of 140-100; and

WHEREAS, at Riverdale High School from 1976 to 1995, Coach Pate served as the Girls Basketball Coach, accomplishing a win-loss record of 228-170 and leading them to a TSSAA State Runner-Up finish in 1979 with a record of 31-1; and

WHEREAS, not only is this remarkable man known for his success as a coach, he was highly acclaimed as an excellent Principal at Eagleville School, serving from 1995 to 2004, and was known for his strong involvement in the athletic programs. During his tenure as Principal,

Eagleville School was awarded the A. F. Bridges State Award of Excellence in 1998-1999 and again in 2002-2003; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. Pate received the Distinguished Service Recognition by the TSSAA in 2002, and under his superb leadership, the TSSAA presented Eagleville School with a National Award of Excellence Certificate; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Pate's tenure as Principal, he was awarded the A. F. Bridges Principal of the Year Award for Athletic District 4; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pate always strives for excellence, and he tirelessly worked to start many new athletic programs at Eagleville School and lobbied for several new athletic facilities during his nine year career as Principal; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Mr. W.A. "Buddy" Pate's impact cannot be adequately measured by winning seasons alone; his positive impact on the lives of students, athletes, fellow teachers, and administrators still resounds in the community today; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Mr. W.A. "Buddy" Pate, Jr. has been supported by his loving wife, Bernice, and his son, Drew; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Mr. Pate has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach Pate, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mould the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards whether in the athletic arena or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the family and friends of Coach W.A. "Buddy" Pate, Jr. in congratulating him upon his induction in the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend Coach Pate for his substantial legacy as a teacher and coach in the education community of Tennessee, and offer our thanks for the dedication which he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.